

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 14077 070759Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-00 /076 W  
-----124105 070830Z /20

R 070830Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4778  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 14077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, RP

SUBJECT: ICRC MISSIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES

REF: GENEVA 7119

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF A LETTER DATED JUNE 27 FROM  
AMBASSADOR EDUARDO ROMALDEZ TO CONGRESSMAN BERKLEY BEDELL  
REFERRING TO THE CONGRESSMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE PHILIPPINES  
MADE ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE MAY 23. ROMUALDEZ' LETTER  
ENCLOSES A NINE-PAGE LETTER OF JUNE 14 FROM DND SECRETARY  
ENRILE TO DFA SECRETARY ROMULO IN WHICH ENRILE PRESENTS  
A "POINT-BY-POINT REFUTATION" OF THE VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS  
ISSUES RAISED BY THE CONGRESSMAN. AMONG THE POINTS MADE  
BY ENRILE IN A SECTION ENTITLED "MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS"  
IS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE. THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS HAS CONDUCTED YEARLY VISITS  
TO PHILIPPINE DETENTION CENTERS SINCE 1973 AND INVARIABLY  
FOUND CONDITIONS SATISFACTORY. ANY INADEQUACIES NOTED WERE  
IMMEDIATELY REMEDIED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. ADMITTEDLY,  
DESPITE THE MOST STRINGENT MEASURES TO PREVENT MALTREATMENT  
OF DETAINEES, ISOLATED VIOLATIONS DO OCCUR DUE TO HUMAN  
FRAILTY. THIS WE CANNOT AVOID. BUT THE GOVERNMENT NEITHER  
TOLERATES NOR CONDONES SUCH VIOLATIONS. UNQUOTE.

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2. NOTWITHSTANDING THE "TOP SECRET" LABEL WHICH THE ICRC  
EVIDENTLY PLACES ON ITS INSPECTIONS OF DETENTION FACILITIES  
(REFTEL), WE WOULD HOPE THAT MISSION GENEVA MIGHT SEEK A  
SUBSTANTIVE READING ON THE RECENT ICRC INSPECTION OF  
POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE PHILIPPINES. THIS WOULD BE USEFUL  
TO US IN VIEW OF OUR CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT THE ROOTING

OUT OF TORTURE AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON IN THE PHILIPPINES AND IN THE LIGHT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE'S IMPENDING VISIT HERE. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO KNOW OF ANY RECENT CASES OF TORTURE (SAY, OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS) TURNED UP BY THE ICRC INSPECTION TEAM. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF ICRC AUTHORITIES AGREE WITH THE GOP'S ASSERTION THAT ICRC MISSIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES HAVE FOUND CONDITIONS IN THE DENTENTION CENTERS "INVARIABLY... SATISFACTORY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, DETENTION, INSPECTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 77 GENEVA 7119  
**Retention:** 0  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, RP, US, ICRC  
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**Review Markings:**  
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